

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 56-80 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 56-59, 61, 65, 69, 73 and 77 being independent. Claims 56-59 are withdrawn, and claims 61, 69 and 73 have been amended. In particular, claims 61 and 73 have been amended to recite "wherein a concentration of the hole injection compound decreases continuously from the anode to the cathode." Support for this amendment may be found in the application at least on page 9, line 6 to page 10, line 13 and Fig. 2B. Claim 69 has been amended to delete the recitation "a hole transporting compound that has a hole mobility that is larger than its electron mobility."

The Examiner has objected to the specification for various typographical errors. Applicants have amended the specification to correct these typographical errors. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Independent claims 61 and 73, and their dependent claims 62-64 and 74-76, have been rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the application provides no support for the recitation "wherein a concentration of the hole injection compound decreases *monotonically* from the anode to the cathode" (emphasis added). Applicants have amended each of claims 61 and 73 to recite "wherein a concentration of the hole injection compound decreases *continuously* from the anode to the cathode" (emphasis added). As stated above, this amendment is supported in the application at least on page 9, line 6 to page 10, line 13 and Fig. 2B. Applicants, therefore, request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claims 61 and 73, and their dependent claims 62-64 and 74-76.

Independent claims 1, 65, 69 and 77, along with their dependent claims 2, 3, 60, 66-68, 70-72 and 78-80, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Seo (U.S. Publication Number US 2002/0086180). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The inventors of Seo and the inventors of the present application are one and the same. Therefore, Seo does not constitute prior art under section 102(e) because Seo is not a publication

of an application for a patent "by another."¹ For at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 65, 69 and 77, and their dependent claims 2, 3, 60, 66-68, 70-72 and 78-80.

Independent claim 69 and its dependent claim 72 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Wakimoto (U.S. Publication Number US2001/0043044) in view of So (U.S. Patent Number 5,925,980). Applicants have amended claim 69 to obviate this rejection.

Claim 69, as amended, recites, among other features, an organic compound film including "a blocking compound capable of stopping the movement of holes or electrons *and* at least one compound selected from the group consisting of: a hole injecting compound that receives holes from the anode; an electron transporting compound that has an electron mobility that is larger than its hole mobility; and an electron injecting compound that receives electrons from the cathode" (emphasis added). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 69 because neither Wakimoto, So, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests the recited organic compound film.

Wakimoto's mixed layer 45, which the Examiner equates to the recited organic compound film, includes a hole blocking layer 5 mixed with a light emitting layer 4. The hole blocking layer 5 consists of an electron transport material (paragraph 0024), and the light emitting layer 4 consists of a hole transport material (paragraph 0025). Accordingly, assuming for sake of argument that the hole blocking layer 5 is a "blocking compound," the mixed layer 45 consists of a blocking compound (5) and a hole transport material (4), rather than a blocking compound and at least one of a hole injecting compound, an electron transporting compound, and an electron injecting compound.

¹ 35 U.S.C. 102(e) states:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless- the invention was described in - (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), *by another* filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent *by another* filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for the purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

So does not remedy the failure of Wakimoto to describe or suggest the recited compound film. So describes an organic EL device that includes a graduated region formed of a combination of a hole transporting material and an electronic transporting material. Accordingly, So, like Wakimoto, also fails to describe or suggest the recited organic compound film including a blocking compound and at least one of a hole injecting compound, an electron transporting compound, and an electron injecting compound.

For at least these reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 69 and its dependent claim 72.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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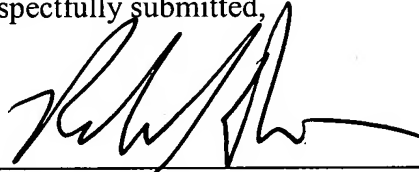
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Respectfully submitted,



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